

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-41 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-20, 35, and 38 are withdrawn.

Election of Species Requirement

In the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed December 24, 2008, the Office required an election between the alleged species of FIG. 1A, FIG. 2A, and FIG. 4A.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicant hereby provisionally elects the species of FIG. 1A for examination, without traverse. Previously presented claims 21-27 (claim 21 being amended herein) and new claims 28-34, 36, 37, and 39-41 are readable on the elected species. Applicant submits that claims 21-34, 36, 37, and 39-41, though readable on the elected species, are not limited to that species (merely by way of example, the independent claims are readable on embodiments having more than two segments).

Applicants, of course, reserve the right to file a divisional application covering the non-elected subject matter.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement and PTO SB/08 form on August 16, 2005. Applicant also filed a Request for Consideration of Information Disclosure Statement Filed Before First Office Action on May 23, 2008. For at least the reasons stated therein, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office consider the references listed in the

PTO SB/08 form and provide a copy of a fully initialed PTO SB/08 form with the next Office correspondence.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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